



# Winter in Hawai'i

by Bekah Wright

## Surf's Up with Aqua Hotels & Resorts

*The sport of surfing is highlighted from the moment guests walk into the hotel's open-air lobby, where surfing classics play onscreen around the clock and surfboards serve as veritable art exhibits.*

In some parts of the world, winter months mean bundling up for inclement weather and staying toasty by the fire. Not so in Hawai'i. Indeed, as winter months kick off on O'ahu, more than 200 of the world's best surfers hit the waves to compete in the 28th Annual Vans Triple Crown of Surfing. With different events spanning the calendar from November 12 to December 20, there are numerous

dates to get in on the action.

The ideal place to make accommodation reservations while attending Vans Triple Crown – Aqua Aloha Surf & Spa. The sport of surfing is highlighted from the moment guests walk into the hotel's open-air lobby, where surfing classics play onscreen around the clock and surfboards serve as veritable art exhibits.

Perhaps even better than its two-block proximity to Waikiki Beach is the hotel's Fall Frenzy promotion. Along with Aqua's 15 other O'ahu



Photos courtesy of Aqua Hotels and Resorts

properties, as well as hotels and resorts on Kaua'i, Maui and Moloka'i, Aqua Aloha Surf & Spa's Fall Frenzy package offers rates starting at US\$69 per night through December 7, 2010. Guests at Aqua Aloha Surf & Spa also receive daily, complimentary continental breakfast, free Internet access and rooms equipped with flatscreen TVs, microwaves and mini-refrigerators. Also getting visitors into the surfing vibe is the boutique hotel's weekly, Tuesday Manager's Reception. The signature drink on the menu – "The Wipeout."

Once settled into accommodations, there's surfing to be seen. From

November 12 – 23 the competition gets underway at Haleiwa Ali'i Beach Park with the Men's Hawaiian Reef Pro and Women's Cholo's Hawaiian Pro. From November 24 – December 6, the action moves to Sunset Beach for Men's O'Neill World Cup of Surfing and Women's Gidget Pro. The proceedings conclude December 8 through 20 at the acclaimed Banzai Pipeline with the Vans Women's Duel for the Jewel where the top four female contenders duke it out for first place. Here, too, is the Men's Billabong Pipe Masters, where the 2010 Association of Surfing Professionals' world champion will be crowned and receive \$400,000 in

prize money.

Back at Waikiki Beach, there are waves to be plundered by newbies and pros alike. Then again, the cabanas by Aqua Surf & Spa's pool call for chill time. Another option that ensures drifting off and envisioning feats via O'ahu's waves comes via an 80-minute Hot Stone Massage at AquaSPA. Then again, with the savings from the Fall Frenzy package, there are more islands and more beaches beckoning with "Surf's up!"

To learn more about Aqua Hotels and Resorts visit [www.aquaresorts.com](http://www.aquaresorts.com) or phone 1-866-971-2782.

## Sunspots Has Something For Everyone

Whether winter travel plans involve a Hawai'i getaway for two or a family vacation to the islands, national wholesaler Sunspots Holidays can tailor the perfect trip for everyone. Travel agents are rewarded, too, with \$15 to \$20 gift cards per passenger when booking any type of package to Hawai'i.

Getting vacations off to a positive start are Sunspots' partner airline carriers including WestJet, American Airlines, Delta and Air Canada. Flights depart out of major Canadian and U.S. gateways and are available to O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island. Upon landing, other package components, like airport transfers or rental cars, come into play.

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More than 150 hotels on the six Hawaiian Islands have packages through Sunspots. Just right for couples looking for pure romance is a 10-day stay at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa for \$2,699 per person including taxes. Canoodling can be done over the daily, free breakfast that's part of the package.

Other hot spots for twosomes are the Hyatt's water playground and the white sands of Kaanapali Beach. With the savings from the package, a visit to the resort's Moana Spa may be in order. Luxuriant is the four-hour Aloha Couples Package (US\$700) designed to nourish harmony and reinvigorate relationships with 50-minute lomilomi massages, a 50-minute Vitamin C facial for her and Kane facial for him, followed by 50-minute couples' moanike'ala pedicures.

Another way for couples to treat themselves is with a golf cart for two for rounds of golf at the nearby Kaanapali Golf Resort where there's a choice of two different 18-hole, championship courses for play -- the Royal Kaanapali Course with its views of the Pacific, or the Kaanapali Kai Course in the foothills of the West Maui Mountains. Once a healthy competition has been born, further testing of skills can transpire on the resort's tennis courts.

One way to reward the day's winner is by making reservations at one of the resort's four restaurants or, even better, with their private, romantic dinner program. Set under a canopy on the beach, a special attendant is at the ready for every request as couples dine by candlelight. Those who prefer an evening of full energy performances will enjoy the Hyatt's Drums of the Pacific Luau or the Cirque Polynesian show.

There's no need for retiring just yet. There's still time to share champagne on the accommodation's private lanai before sinking into the Hyatt's Plus Grand Beds and snuggling up.

A visit to Hawai'i is also ideal for families looking to reconnect. A one-week, Sunspots package with 'ohana, or families, can be had at the OHANA

Waikiki West Hotel starting at Can\$1,210 per person, including taxes and based on double occupancy.

One of five OHANA hotels on O'ahu, OHANA Waikiki West is centrally located in area that will appeal to families due to its walking distance proximity to Waikiki Beach, the International Marketplace, Kapiolani Park, Honolulu Zoo and Waikiki Aquarium.

Hours by the hotel pool are definitely in order. When hunger strikes, the accommodations have kitchenettes for families on the go and a grocery store is just across the street for stocking up on supplies. Another dining option on premises is a Chili's Restaurant.

Included in the one-week package are Aloha VIP Tours. Some to consider include hiking from the summit of Diamond Head Crater, mountain biking through Ka'a'awa Valley at Kualoa Ranch, visiting the Polynesian Cultural Center or touring Pearl Harbor. As with its package offerings, Sunspots adventure excursions take each traveler into consideration, ensuring unforgettable vacations.

For more information visit [www.sunspotsholidays.com](http://www.sunspotsholidays.com) or phone (416) 484-8144 or 1-800-657-8721.

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Great deals to the six Hawaiian Islands abound through Alio Tours. The company works with over 550 properties in Hawai'i. In addition to accommodation deals, they offer low rates for flights on WestJet, Air Canada and American Airlines. Discounted, inter-island flights can also be booked on Hawaiian Airlines through Alio Tours. Further price breaks are available on rental cars with Avis and Dollar. As for island attractions and excursions, they can be contracted through Alio, too. And when it comes to packages, each element -- from airfare, car rental, lodging and attractions -- is booked separately, helping travellers build a personalized vacation.



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Myriad discounts for Hawai'i are offered through Alio, from their current 55% off sale at O'ahu's Outrigger Reef on the Beach to the 15% to 25% sale on all Maui Aston Hotels and Resorts properties. One to indulge in on Hawai'i Island is a seven-night, land-only package rate at the Outrigger Royal Sea Cliff Resort starting at \$928 net per couple including taxes.

Located in historic Kailua-Kona town, the resort sits atop a lava rock bluff, offering up breathtaking views of the Kona Coast. Guests can check into studio, one- and two-bedroom condo units, each with a kitchen and washer and dryer. An oceanfront setting makes for idyllic days at the beach. Tennis courts are available for rousing matches. Cooling off can be done either in the Pacific or the resort's swimming pool. Those who love dining on the shore at sunset can make use of the on-site barbeques for beach-worthy grub.

The Outrigger Royal Sea Cliff

has other components that personalize a visit. Guests are invited to participate in cultural activities such as 'ukulele lessons, lei making and various types of crafts. Kids get their own perks via an Island Explorer Kit (with a minimum three-night stay) that includes a backpack, sunglasses, pen and binoculars.

Daytrips on Hawai'i Island are a must from visiting Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to stargazing atop Mauna Kea. There are events to catch, too, from the upcoming Kona Coffee Cultural Festival held from November 5 through 14 to the monthly "Kokua Kailua" Hulihee Palace Concert held from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Kailua Village where there's live entertainment and shopping opportunities.

A second week's vacation can easily be had with the seven-night, land-only package rate at Kauai's Aston Islander on the Beach starting at \$899 net per couple including taxes. Set on the island's Coconut Coast, the property

provides Garden View, Partial Ocean View, Oceanfront rooms and One-Bedroom, One-Bath Ocean View Suites. When not floating in the resort's swimming pool, Wailua Bay lures for snorkelling. Other endeavors can be found nearby as well, including a public golf course, tennis courts and The Coconut Plantation Marketplace's 60 shopping venues.

There's much to see and do during a stay on Kauai, such as hiking in Waimea Canyon, sailing the Napali Coast, kayaking Hanalei Bay or moonlight ziplining through the rainforest. Speaking of Hanalei, the town's community centre is the place to see ongoing slack key guitar concerts. Foodies will want to catch the annual The Garden Island Range & Food Festival where Kauai's cattlemen, farmers and chefs present locavore delights. Also on tap cultural and historical Makahiki Games for little ones to engage in.

Once back at the hotel, a beachfront



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## Honua Kai's Giving Spirit Perfect for the Holidays

With the holidays right around the corner, thoughts of gifts start dancing around in heads. A dreamy gift bound to top lots of lists is a visit to Honua Kai Resort & Spa on Maui's Kaanapali Beach.

Those who believe in celebrating early can partake in Honua Kai's 5th Night Free Package. What makes this promotion extra special is that it's added to the current 50 percent off rates of the Fall Special Promotion, getting the holiday spirit into high gear through December 18, 2010.

Through the combined promotions, guests get four nights at 50% off and receive the fifth night free. Special

rates start at US\$263 per night for Ohana Resort View category accommodations and 50% off the Ohana, one- and two-bedroom suite categories (based on availability). The 5th Night Free Promotion is based on double occupancy in Ohana and one-bedroom accommodations and up to four guests in a two-bedroom category. Those visitors looking for a three-bedroom category suite can get 35% off with a fifth night free. A minimum five-night stay is required in all categories.

Travellers aren't the only ones benefitting from Honua Kai's holiday spirit. Through November 30, 2010, (Thanksgiving holiday excluded), qualified travel agents can take advantage of the resort's "Red Umbrella Getaway" offer. Through the promotion, travel agents receive a three-night stay in order to become familiarized with the property. A one-hour property tour is required.

The three complimentary room nights are in the Ohana category.

Suites are upgradeable at a cost of US\$200 per night for a two-bedroom suite and \$400 per night for a three-bedroom suite. A daily \$25 resort fee and additional person charges apply. Additional nights are available at a cost of \$200 per night for Ohana category and upgrade fees may be applicable. A credit card is required to hold the suite at time of reservation. There is no cancellation fee. If the agent does not participate in the required, one-hour property tour exchange, the three complimentary nights will be withdrawn and a \$200 per night rate will apply.

No tears need be shed at the end of an agent's stay. Honua Kai has developed a program that allows for easy return visits – "Red Umbrella Rewards." Through "Red Umbrella Rewards," those travel agents who've visited the property become eligible within 90 days of their stay to earn a one-night stay in a two-bedroom suite for every reservation booking they make for cli-



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ents to Honua Kai. Room nights may be combined and are based on availability. All free nights earned are non-transferrable and valid up to one year after issue date. All travel agents who book vacations to Hawai'i and have a valid and verifiable IATA card are eligible for the "Red Umbrella" promotions. All requests are based on availability. The feeling guaranteed by promotions for both guests and travel agents – pure satisfaction.

To take advantage of the "Red Umbrella Getaway" promotion and for complete information, visit [www.RedUmbrellaGetaway.com](http://www.RedUmbrellaGetaway.com) or contact the Resort's Travel Agent Hotline at 1-877-662-2809 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. IATA numbers will be asked for at the time of the call. For more information visit [www.honuakaimaui.com](http://www.honuakaimaui.com) or phone 1-888-718-5789.

## Kaanapali Beach Hotel's Whale Encounter

Watching nature at its best is a year-round pursuit on the Hawaiian Islands. There's a special time of year, though, from December through April, when kohola, or North Pacific Humpback whales, migrate from Alaska to Hawai'i for their mating and birthing season. Catching sight of these magnificent creatures is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

With this special time in mind, Kaanapali Beach Hotel (KBH) is offering guests their Whale Encounter Package. Travel must be booked between December 7, 2010 and April 9, 2011. The package costs US\$1,589 (plus taxes) for a five-night stay, a 20% savings. The Whale Encounter cannot be used with any other promotion.



Photo courtesy of Kaanapali Beach Hotel

Extra nights can be purchased for \$265 plus taxes (includes car and breakfast). Additional guests may also get in on the package for \$319 plus taxes. There is, however, a maximum of four occupants per room.

Savings start at the airport, where guests pick up the included compact rental car for their stay. At check-in, the key to a partial view room truly gets the vacation underway. After unpacking, relaxing begins on the beach with the one-day, complimentary use of an umbrella and chaise lounge, as well as the two beach towels and bottled water included through the promotion each day. This is also a great time to partake in the package's picnic lunch that comes in a keepsake logo backpack.

The following morning, Executive Chef Tom Muromoto serves up breakfast at the Tiki Terrace, a daily component of the Whale Encounter package for two guests. Afterwards, there's an opportunity to learn more about Humpback whales with admission for two to the Maui Ocean

Center. Here, the Mammal Discovery Center educates about dolphins, monk seals and, of course, the Humpback whale. Those curious about whales' eating habits will gain insight through The Bubble Net experience. There's much more to be seen, too, from Hammerhead Harbor and The Tide Pool to Turtle Lagoon and the Sea Jelly Gallery.

Armed with knowledge, it's time to see Humpback whales in their natural habitat. Included in the Whale Encounter Package are two adult tickets for Trilogy's two-hour, Kaanapali Whale Watch. A catamaran departs directly from the beach fronting KBH with naturalists onboard to help spot this endangered species and point out some of their most notable moves like breaching, spy hopping and tail slapping. Guest moves witnessed onboard the catamaran – high fives celebrating observing these beautiful creatures in their own environment.

To learn more about Kaanapali Beach Hotel visit [www.kbhmaui.com](http://www.kbhmaui.com) or phone 1-800-262-8450.



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